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August 4, 1976

SUBJECT: SENATE CLEAN AIR BILL

Yesterday the Senate passed several amendments to the Clean Air bill, including a "significant deterioration" provision that would set new limits on how much pollution could be pumped into the air from a new factory or power plant--substantially stronger than current EPA standards.

What is your reaction to the bill as it currently stands in the Senate?

The Administration has concerns with both the auto emissions provisions and the significant deterioration provisions of the Senate bill. We hope that when the House considers the bill, it will take these into consideration. We specifically support the Dingell-Broyhill amendment which would permit auto emission standards to remain where they are for three years, and then be tightened for the two years following that, in order to permit the auto manufacturers time to implement new fuel-saving devices. To do otherwise, we feel, would be damaging to our goal of saving badly needed energy.

ME

September 16, 1976

SUBJECT:

CLEAN AIR ACT

SITUATION:

The House yesterday passed the "Clean Air Bill" by a vote of 324 to 68. The bill, which now goes to a House-Senate Conference Committee, gives the auto industry until the 1982 model year to comply with current auto emission standards. The bill also would set stringent standards for stationary sources of pollution, such as electrical generating facilities, steel and other factories.

QUESTION:

What is the President's position on the Clean Air Act?

GUIDANCE:

The differences between the House and Senate bills must still be resolved by conference committee. When a final version of the bill is passed, it will be reviewed by the President's economic, energy and environmental advisors before he makes a final decision on whether to sign or veto the bill.

BACKGROUND:

We are satisfied with the auto standards provisions of the House bill, and expect that version to carry in the conference committee. We feel the provisions for stationary source polluters are too stringent; they create substantial costs, for industry, for the consumer, and in the loss of jobs.

JBS